




## Central Shenandoah Emergency Medical Services Council

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Date: May 20, 2008  
To: Regional ALS Providers  
Regional EMS Agencies  
From: Matt Lawler, Assistant Director   
Re: Protocol Modifications

Since January of this year, the Central Shenandoah EMS Council Medical Control Review Committee has been working to revise the regional patient treatment guidelines. Several significant changes will take effect this summer. The protocols are undergoing final review by the operational medical directors.

During the month of June, the Council will conduct protocol in-services and training on new procedures being introduced. The training will be offered on skills drill dates. While skill testing will not be conducted, attendance requirements will remain in effect for the June skills drill. In addition to the skills drill dates, additional training sessions will be offered. Please refer to the protocols section of our website, [www.csems.vaems.org/protocols](http://www.csems.vaems.org/protocols), for a complete listing of training opportunities. Registration is required for all sessions.

### Summary of Major Protocol Changes

Add drug – Haloperidol (Haldol)
Add drug – Ondansetron (Zofran)
Add procedure – Colormetric ETCO <sub>2</sub> detection to EMT-B level
Add procedure – King LT airway
Add procedure – Tourniquet
Add protocol – Combative patient
Add protocol – Control of external bleeding
Add protocol – Crush syndrome
Combine asthma and COPD protocols
Delete procedure – Administration of methylprednisolone at EMT-Enhanced level
Delete procedure – Combitube airway
Delete procedure – Endotracheal intubation at the EMT-Enhanced level
Delete procedure – Melker cricothyrotomy
Delete procedure – Nasotracheal intubation
Delete procedure – Preexisting vascular access device (PVAD)
Update procedure – Surgical cricothyrotomy at EMT-Paramedic level only

The Council has applied for a Rescue Squad Assistance Fund grant to assist agencies in the procurement of two sets of King LT airways for each licensed EMS vehicle. 100% funding was requested. The cost to outfit each EMS vehicle with two sets (five airway sizes per set) of King LT airways is \$390. If 100% funding is not granted, agencies can be expected to pay \$78 per vehicle at 80% funding or \$195 at 50% funding. More information will be communicated once the Council learns the status of the grant after July 1, 2008.

Once the final review by the operational medical directors is completed, the protocols will be published on the Council's website and an effective date will be set. The Council is seeking funding sources to publish new field guides. The pharmacies will begin stocking the ondansetron and haloperidol on July 1, 2008. Providers should not utilize these drugs, or any other procedures, until training is completed and the protocols are effective.

If you have any questions, please contact me.